

MID 319.1

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3 February 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT INTELLIGENCE STUDY PUBLISHING BOARD:

SUBJECT: Suggested Priority List for JANIS Studies.

1. In conformance with the oral request of the Director, JISPB, the Topographic Branch herewith submits a suggested revision of priorities for JANIS studies.

2. It is understood that relative priorities are to be based upon  
(1) the probable strategic significance of countries and areas, and  
(2) the feasibility of fitting individual studies into the organizational framework of the Branch.

3. The countries and areas included in the attached priority list are those selected by JISPB, together with three new areas, namely Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and Norway, recommended for consideration by Topographic Branch. Norway has been added although [REDACTED] exists because it is believed that a single up-to-date study is desirable in view of priority analysis cited in paragraph 5 below.

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4. It is the understanding of the Topographic Branch that tentative agreement has been reached to substitute an Arctic JANIS (No. 47) for formerly scheduled studies on Bear and Jan Mayen Islands (No. 45), and Spitzbergen Archipelago (No. 46), Eastern and Western Canada studies (Nos. 404 and 405, respectively), for the Northern and Southern Canada studies (Nos. 401 and 402, respectively), and two studies on Brazil instead of the three previously authorized. Appropriate adjustments accordingly have been made in the priority schedule submitted.

5. Criteria used in determining priorities:

a. Top priority is given to the USSR and to areas along the shortest air route between that country and industrial northeastern United States. Such a route extends from European USSR through Scandinavia, Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland and eastern Canada.

b. Second priority is given to areas along the air route from Asiatic USSR to western United States, via Alaska and Canada. Similar priority was assigned to fringe areas about the western, southern, and eastern boundaries of the USSR, including eastern Europe, southern Asia, and eastern Asia.

c. All other areas are given third priority.

d. Within each of the above three priority classifications, individual countries and areas were selected for priority rating on the basis of foreseeable strategic importance.

e. In order to permit the most efficient utilization of research personnel, a system of rotating assignments was superimposed on the above priorities system whereby JANIS studies were allocated to Desks in the Topographic Branch, ID, at a rate not in excess of one per year per Desk. In this connection, it must be realized that Desks not occupied in any one year are not repeat are not available for work on lower priority JANIS of their area because of Branch commitments on other assignments.

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1 Inclosure  
JANIS priority list

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